[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

crores goes for pay and allowances, how can development be there?

Sir, the system is so faulty there. As I said, the hon. Prime Minister has assured us that he would call the Chief Ministers and he would discuss with them as to how we can solve this financial crisis. Naturally, development would take place only if resources are available. I do share the feeling of the hon. Member. I will convey this feeling, I will convey what the hon. Member has said, to the hon. Prime Minister once again.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, while giving his reply, the hon. Minister mentioned that in a meeting a number of Bodo militants had surrendered. Subsequently also, a number of Bodo militants had surrendered to the District Administration. In this connection, I would like to know what programmes are being implemented to rehabilitate these Bodo militants who have surrendered. I would like to know whether anybody has yet been rehabilitated. What programmes the Government has to rehabilitate them?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, as I mentioned, we are in the process of implementing the Bodo Accord. We were having regular meetings. Unfortunately, in the meantime, the group broke. Intitially, they were the Bodoland Action Committee. Then, they formed the Bodoland People Party. They broke among themselves. The group got divided. Both the groups started demanding different things. It become difficult for us. At a personal level, I tried to bring them together because I felt that these tribals were sensitive about such things that they were very clear-hearted and straightforward. I wanted to bring them together as a team and move forward. While we were engaged in this process, this thing had happened.

I assure the House, Sir, that our intention is to develop the area. Our intention is to bring our brothers and sisters in this far-flung area into the national mainstream. This would continue and we would certainly succeed in our efforts.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): The discussion on this Short Duration Discussion is over. We now take up the next item on the agenda. Shri Thangka Balu.

GOVERNMENT MOTION

TWENTY-EIGHT AND TWENTY-NINTH REPORTS OF THE FORMER COMMISSIONER FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES AND THE FIFTH, SIXTH, SEVENTH AND EIGHT REPORTS OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"That the Twenty-eighth and the Twenty-ninth Reports of the erstwhile Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1986-87 and 1987-89 laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 1989 and 31st August, 1990, respectively, and the Fifth, the Sixth, the Seventh and the Eighth Reports of the Commission (now National Commission) for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 1986, 28th August, 1987, 6th May, 1988 and 18th November, 1988 respectively, be taken into consideration."

Sir, it may be pointed out that the 30th Report of the Commissioner for Schedued Castes and Scheduled Tribes...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Mr. Minister, you want to make a long speech? Is there a necessity to make such a long speech?

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: It is a must.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): How much time would you take?

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Ten minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): I am asking you because I want to ask the Member who is going to initiate the discussion to speak today itself. The rest of the debate can be carried over to tomorrow.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: I must make my initial observations. It is a must, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL). Okay, I allow you.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it may be pointed out that the 30th Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1989-91 (up to 10th February, 1991) is also likely to be laid on the Table of the House soon. It may also be pointed out that from 1st September, 1987, the Government modified the functions of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with a view to avoiding any overlapping of the Special Officer and the Commission according to which the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was not required to submit any Annual Report to the President. It could, however, submit project-based reports to the Centraj Goverment as and when studies on the particular problem were over. During this period, i.e. 1st September, 1987 to 11th March, 1992, the Commission submitted two study reports—one on the practice of Untouchability (1989) and the other on the Atrocities of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. (1990).

Accepting the recommendations contained in the 7th and 8th Reports of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Government of India amended the Constitution by the Constitution (Sixty-fifth Amendment) Act, 1990, and reconstituted with effect from 12th March, 1992, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the amended article 338 of the Constitution The first Annual Report of the reconstituted National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1992-93 was expected in the year 1993 while its second Annual Report for the year 1993-94 has also fallen due. We have requested the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on 4th January, 1994 to submit its first Annual Report Thereafter the National Commission has been reminded by Welfare Minister and Secretary (Welfare) to expedite the report. The Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in April, 1994 has intimated that "the report is under preparation and it is expected that it would be submitted to the President soon".

Soon Hon'ble Members yesterday have also expressed the anxiety about the functioning of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes despite enhanced power including that of civil court to investigate and assess the administration of the various safeguards for the socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. On the basis of the information

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made avaialble by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, I would like to inform the Hon'be Members that the National Commission has so far held 9 meetings. It has received from 12th March, 1992 to June, 1994, 26619 individual complaints pertaining to service matters of which 24993 have been disposed off by the National Commission. About 1626 complaints are pending with the Commission. In respect of atrocities cases, the Commission has taken action in 796 cases, out of which the Chairman|Members or the officials of the Commission have held field enquiries in 101 cases.

Some of the Hon'ble Members have also pointed out that no fruitful purpose would be served by discussing over 10-year old reports of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In this connection, I may submit that, as already mentioned, these reports of the Commission and the Special Officer were laid on the Table of the House in 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990, respectively. We have requested on 21st July, 1989 itself to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat for taking up these Reports for discussion in this House and requests were made subsequently also on the eve of every Session for discussion on these reports in the House. Due to heavy schedule of the House, it could not be possible heitherto to take up these reports for discussion. Discussion on these reports has now been allowed for which I am thankful to this august House. The problems and issues of socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are always of prime concern and it is never late to review and discuss them especially when an opportunity has been provided in this House for this purpose. I shall, therefore, submit to this august House that we should not postpone discussion on these reports for want to first Annual Report for 1992-93 of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The erstwhile Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and also the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were looking after the measures for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and their condition in the society. In their above mentioned Reports they have dealt in length on the extent of welfare and development measures undertaken by the Government for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Various recommendations have also been made in the Reports broadly relating to the economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, protective measures including curbing the practice of untouchability ensuring reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in public service, quantification of funds for sectorwise programmes for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes etc. It was also recommended in the VII and VIII Reports of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to empower the Commission as a Commission of Inquiry under the Commission of Inquiry Act of 1952.

I am happy to report to this august House that immediately on receipt of these Reports, Government initiated action on the recommendations made therein. As already mentioned in pursuance of the Constitution's 65th Amendment Act, 1990, the erstwhile Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as also the Commissioner for Schedued Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been replaced by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with effect from 12th March, 1992. The new National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been set up under Article 338 of the

Constitution with enlarged functions powers of a Civil Court for effective investigation and inquiry into the issues and matters relating to the development and welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. On the other recommendations of the Reports, Government has taken necessary action and detailed action taken statement in regard to the V and VI Report of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been tabled in Rajya Sabha on 29th December, 1989 while the detailed action taken statement in regard to the VII and VIII Report of the Commission have been tabled in Rajya Sabha on 17th August, 1992.

I may also mention that our Government is fully committed to the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and has taken many initiatives in this regard. In April, 1992, we have launched an ambitious scheme of eradication of the obnoxious practice of scavenging and rehabilitating the liberated scavengers into alternate dignified professions by the end of the VIII Five Year Plan. A total amount of Rs. 905 crores is intended to be spent for this prestigious scheme by the end of 1996-97. An Act of Parliament has been passed to constitute a National Commission on Safai Karamcharis to monitor the implementation of the scheme. Besides, various syhemes for the education and economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being implemented with adequate financial outlays by the Government. Due to stress is laid on the administration of the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights and Atrocities Acts.

Recently, we have modified the scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for the children of those following unclean professions like scavengers, tanners, flayers, etc. and the restriction on the number of children and the income ceiling limit have been removed so as to enable all the children of these categories of parents to avail of this facility. The guidelines governing the utilisation of Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan have also been modified to allow infrastructural development in important sectors like education, irrigation, soil-conservation, agriculture, industry, etc., particularly, in the areas having 50 per cent or more Scheduled Caste population. The outlays for the Special Central Assistance have been stepped up considerably during the last two years.

The National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation which was set up in 1989, is being provided enhanced financial outlays and Rs. 40 crores have been provided during 1994-95 while efforts are on to secure more funds for the orporation so as to enable it to cater to the increased requirement of loan for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes entrepreneurs. A special educational development programme for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe females in the areas having below 2 per cent liberacy is also in hand. 23 educational complexes under the scheme have been sanctioned for the Scheduled Tribe girls while the scheme for Scheduled Castes girls is under finalisation in consultation with the Planning Commission.

The Scheme of Pre-examination coaching for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates has been modified to commission result oriented private coaching institutes of repute also to impart pre-examination coaching etc. to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students. A scheme of Upgradation of Merit of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students by way of extra coaching to Class IX to XII is also being implemented with increased budgetary provisions New Central Sector. Scheme of Vocational Training in Tribal Areas has been introduced in 1992-98 with an objective to import

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skill in various vocations to the tribal youth to make them self-employed and/or employed.

Another new Cental Sector Scheme introduced during 1992-93 is grants to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations to strengthen their share capital and infrastructure to exploit the untapped potential in procurement and marketing of tribal produce.

Extending financial assistance to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families into cross poverty line has also been stepped up and during 1993-94, 23.24 akh Scheduled Caste and 9.77 lakh Scheduled Tribe families were assisted.

Government has also undertaken four Special Recruitment Drives to fillup backlog in the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Government, Public Undertakings banking and insurance institutions.

The quantum of grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations for undertaking educational and skill development programmes for Scheduled Castes have also been substantially increased covering about 80,000 beneficiaries through 208 Non-Governmental Organisations.

Government observed in a befitting manner Baba Saheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's birth centenary celebrations from 1990 to 1992. Large number of schemes and programmes were undertaken by the Central Government, State Governments and Union Territories during the celebrations. Ministry of Welfare has been implementing special schemes, namely, setting up of Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library at New Delhi, institution of Dr. Ambedkar National Award, Dr. Ambedkar Overseas Fellowships, setting up of Dr. Ambedkar Chairs in Universities, setting up of Dr. Ambedkar's statues at ten different places in the country, production of full length feature film on Dr. Ambedkar and translation and publication of Dr. Ambedkar's writings and speeches.

Besides, Dr. Ambedkar Foundation was also set up in March, 1992, with specific objective of promoting literary and cultural activities and also for implementation of four of the special schemes, namely, Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library, Dr. Ambedkar National Award, Dr. Ambedkar Overseas Fellowships and Dr. Ambedkar Chairs in Universities. An outlay of Rs. 8.50 crores was sanctioned to the Foundation in March, 1992. Dr. Ambedkar Chairs have been set up in eight universities. Four Dr. Ambedkar Overseas Fellowships are being awarded annually irrespective of caste or religion. Land for construction of Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library has been allotted in the institutional area at Janpath. Dr. Ambedkar international Award of the value of Rs. 15 lakh is also being instituted. Government is committed to provide adequate finances for the ongoing special schemes emanated from Dr. Ambedkar birth centenary celebrations.

In this background, I would now request the House to discuss all these Reports together and urge the Hon'ble Members to give their practical and meaningful suggestions for the guidance of both the Central and State Governments. Without taking further much of your valuable time, I request the House to consider these Reports.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am on a procedural matter. Yesterday, we demanded that the Minister should bring forward the latest reports instead of a decade old reports for discussion. Today, the Minister in his introduction has included the information that he has received from the National Commission for SC and ST. I feel that the House is not

entitled to discuss it. The National Commission for SC and ST was appointed by the president. It is a statutory body. They have to report to the President and the Parliament is entitled to discuss that report. The information given to the Ministry by the National Commission for SC and ST is an internal matter between them. I feel that it cannot form part of the report and we cannot discuss it. That should go to the President. We cannot go on discussing that information which the Ministry has received from the National Commission for SC and ST.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Mr. Hanumanthappa, I got your point. The motion for discussion before the House is different. We are not discussing what the Minister has said in his statement. It is a part of the statement.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: The Minister has called upon us to discuss... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): No, no, it is a motion which was moved earlier which is before the House. The moteion has been moved. Now any Member desiring to speak on that motion may initiate the discussion.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: The Minister, in his introduction, has said that out of 26,000 cases, 24,000 cases have been disposed of, the Nation Commission for SC and ST met nine times and out of 796 atrocities cases, so many have been disposed. This is the information in the National Commission for SC and ST's report. They cannot refer to these things, if they cannot authenticate. This report should go to the President. Can we discuss it?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): The motion is for discussion. That is all. His speech is not for discussion. He has referred to certain things which he should not have done and if you think that he has committed some contempt, then, you move a motion for contempt tomorrow.

6.00 P.M.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I feel that unnecessarily a lot of confusion is being created. Formally speaking, the Minister spoke on certain specific reports. While he was speaking, obviously, some references have been made to some other information he had in his possession. We crtainly want these reports to be discussed. But having these reports as the base, we also want to discuss the situation with respect to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes today. While he discussed this, in his discretion he has not confined himself only to these reports. Obviously; whatever happened since then would also come up. There is nothing to bar that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: That is why I mentioned all the relevant things.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh): That will also come up before the House and we can discuss that. (*Interruptions*).

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: You cannot artificially segregate discussions like this. In the Rajya Sabha, this is not the way discussions are conducted. What Mr. Hanumanthappa says is in one sense, true. We must be ashamed of the fact that we are not having the up-to-date report. It is shameful that reports are not placed before us. But that should not, in any way, disqualify us from discussing also the other aspects.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Yes, Mr. Sangh Priya Gautam.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय,...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सतीश अग्रवाल) : आप आज खत्म करना चाहते हैं ?

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : थोड़ा सा कहने दीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सतीश अग्रवाल) : आपने उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय कह दिया, बस हो गया। बाकी कल कह देना।

Mr. Sangh Priya Gautam will continue his speech tomorrow.

The House now stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at two minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 28th July, 1994.